

St Michael's

Church of England Infant School



9th September 2022 Newsletter

Our value this half term is
Friendship

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to a new academic year! For our new reception parents, welcome to the St Michael's family! We hope you have all had a restful and relaxing summer break. Our Year 1 and 2 children have already settled really well in their new classrooms with their new teachers and are busy engaging in new learning and re-establishing their friendships. We hear that the home visits for our new starters have gone well and we look forward to getting to know the children when they start next week.

We have numerous events planned for the coming term and we will send out information on these in due course. Below are some dates for your diary for our Harvest Church Service and meet the teacher evening. We look forward to seeing you all at these events. Please also look out for our class curriculum letters that will come out next week.

Drop off and pick ups

School starts at **8.50 am**. The gates will be open from **8.40 am**. We ask that you remain with your child on the playground until the bell is rung at 8.50 am. The children in Year 1 and 2 should then line up in front of their class teacher by the steps. You will then be able to leave your child. If you would like to have a quick chat or give a message to your child's teacher, they may be able to speak to you briefly then. If you need to have a longer conversation, we do ask that you find an alternative time to meet with your class teacher. This could possibly be at pick up or at a mutually agreed time at a later date. For our reception children, we ask that once the bell goes, you line up with your child along the fence that leads into the early years outside area.

School finishes at **3 pm**. Year 1 and 2 will be brought out to the playground and each child will be released once the teacher has seen their adult. For reception children, please can you collect your child from the same place as the morning drop off.



Stand up, Stand out

Each half term, as a school, we take the time to learn about a person who has made a significant contribution and impact in society for various different reasons. We call this project, 'Stand Up, Stand Out' because the individual has gone out of their way to make a stand and make a change. In the past we have looked at famous people such as Nelson Mandela, David Attenborough and Amelia Earhart to name but a few! We begin by discussing the individual in a worship through the series of books 'Little People, Big Dreams'.

Due to the Queen's passing, we have decided to dedicate this half term's 'Stand Up, Stand Out' focus to Queen Elizabeth. Over the coming weeks, we will be talking to the children about the Queen, her life, her family, her reign and the significant impact she has made on many.



Neutral classrooms

The learning environment is very much like a third teacher in the classroom. At St Michael's we have been thinking long and hard about our approach to our learning and enabling environments and what sort of displays and activities we could have around the classrooms, which might work well. We want to ensure that the learning environment is both inviting and captivating but also nurturing and promotes a sense of wellbeing and calmness as this supports learning readiness.

We have decided to go for an approach that many schools are now embracing and this is often called 'A neutral classroom'. This type of classroom normally has a more minimal teaching or display walls, calming colours, is devoid of clutter, has soft lighting and uses as many natural materials as possible in the environment. We have created areas in our classrooms that are themed for exploration so that children can wonder and think and use their creative side! Take a look at a few of the examples we have set up below.

Readathon

Thank you to all the children who took part in the Readathon in the summer term. You have raised a remarkable £354! This will provide many books for children in hospital and goes towards providing a storyteller too. This service supports seriously ill children's disrupted learning, and gives them and their families precious distraction and comfort at a time when it's needed the most. So a HUGE thank you! It also promotes a love of reading in our children and from the money that was raised, we have been given £70 towards scholastic books. Fantastic!

New Playground Shed

A huge thank you to the Friends for our new playground shed, it looks wonderful and houses all our playground toys. Thank you to Mrs Stewart and Mrs Leney for reorganising the playground equipment, it looks fantastic.

Dates for your diary

Year R start – 12th September 2022

Meet the teacher evening – 27th September 2022

Harvest Church service – 3rd October 2022

INSET Day – 21st October 2022

Half term break – 24th-28th October

Have a lovely weekend.

God Bless

Nicola Cleather
Head of School



The Neutral Classroom

